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PRESENTATION OF THE CULLUM MEDAL TO SIR JOHN MURRAY.

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held on the 5th of June in the theatre of the University of London, the chair was taken by the President of the Society, Sir Clements R. Markham.

The President announced that the Royal medals for the encouragement of geographical science and discovery had been awarded to two Frenchmen—the Founder's medal to Captain Binger and the Patron's medal to M. Foureau, both of them distinguished African explorers. The following other awards were also declared: The Murchison grant for 1899 to Mr. Albert Armitage, for his valuable scientific observations with the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, and for his sledge journeys with Mr. Jackson to explore the western part of the Franz Josef group; the Back grant for 1899 to Captain P. M. Sykes, for his three journeys through Persia; the Gill memorial for 1899 to the Hon. David Carnegie, for his journey across the Western Australian desert in 1896–97; the Cuthbert Peek grant for 1899 to Dr. Nathorst, for his important scientific exploration of the Spitsbergen Islands and the seas between Spitsbergen and Greenland.

The medals and awards were then presented and the President delivered his anniversary address.

After resuming his seat at the conclusion, he rose again and said that the Society had been requested by its sister Society in New York to offer the facilities of its anniversary meeting to the American Ambassador for the purpose of presenting the medal of the Geographical Society of New York to their respected colleague, Sir John Murray. It was with great pleasure that they had acceded to that request, for their intercourse with the American Geographical Society had always been most friendly, and he was proud to say that its venerable president had been his friend for upwards of a quarter of a century. He would now ask his Excellency to present the medal.

Mr. Choate said:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: I ought to apologize for having come here late this afternoon to perform this pleasing duty, which I should have discharged at the time of the presentation of the other medals by your own Society; but, when I tell you that I had a previous engagement to be present at the gathering of the Master and Brethren of the Trinity House, at which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was present as the Elder Brother of the House, I am sure that will account for my absence. His Royal Highness was

pleased, when I told him of this engagement, to bid me God speed, and to tell me to take French leave and come here. Now, I appear here as the representative of the American Geographical Society of New York, and with the concurrence, I may say, of the Secretary of State of the United States, expressing on the part of the Government of that country full sympathy with the object which the New York Society has in view. I appear here as the bearer of that Society's gold medal to present to one of your most distinguished scientific men. The American Society is one of those associations that were formed for similar purposes to those of your own, many, many years ago, emulating the noble example which this Society had set to the world. Undoubtedly it has achieved great success on its own part. It has been the patron of many illustrious expeditions which have extended the bounds of geographical knowledge, and have acted no small part in advancing the science of geography, to which you are all so ardently devoted. But the spirit of science knows no geographical boundaries. It is in entire sympathy with efforts in the same direction that are being made the world around, and so, in assigning its really beautiful gold medal, they do not confine, and have never confined, themselves to the limits of their own country; but they look the world over for the worthiest to be its recipient. It is not for me to state in his presence what Sir John Murray has done to entitle him to such recognition on the part of a distant Society. You know, far better than I do, the great works which he has accomplished. I think it is all summed up in the front of this medal, and, in lieu of a longer speech, you will perhaps allow me to read what is there inscribed:—"Cullum Geographical Medal. Awarded to Sir John Murray, K.C.B., naturalist, deep sea explorer, oceanographer, editor of Challenger Reports, 1899." And on the reverse, "American Geographical Society of New York," with the relief of an ideal explorer, an ideal man of science, standing in the bow of his boat as he approaches what seems to me to be the Antarctic continent, shielding his eyes from the glare of the Polar southern sun, as he looks forward in search of this hoped-for country. Now that tells the whole story. If I were to have prepared an annual address I could not have stated it more succinctly or more fully. It gives me the greatest pleasure, on the part of the American Society and of the people of America, to be here to-day to make this presentation. I may say that science, together with art and literature, forms enduring links which will perpetuate the friendship which now exists between the two countries, for, if the brains of two nations are always working together, how can their hearts ever be far apart? So, Mr. President, by your leave, I deliver and present this medal to Sir John Murray, wishing for him, on the part of the Society which gives it and on that of the country I represent, long life and more distinction than he has already achieved. He is equally at home on the ocean as on dry land, and it is to enthusiasm, zeal, and perseverance such as his, always exhibited in the cause of science, that the future of science will be due, and the Arctic and Antarctic regions alike will give up their secrets until science shall have mastered the whole world.

Sir John Murray, in acknowledging the honour conferred upon him, said that he regarded the award as made not so much for any personal merit of his own as in recognition of the value of the work which had been performed by the great expedition with which his name was so very often associated, and the honour was therefore shared by all his colleagues, naval, literary, and scientific. It was like a silken thread of sympathy outstretched between two great kindred nations.